

**Amendments to the Specification:**

**Please rewrite paragraph [0024] as follows:**

[0024] For the ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber in accordance with the present invention, it is important that in the ribbon portion 2, as shown in Fig. 1(c), the polarization-maintaining fibers 12 be fixed by and coated with an adhesive 36, and at least the end faces of the polarization-maintaining fibers 12 which is used as a signal be aligned so as to have a predetermined plane of polarization. As is shown in Figs. 1(c) and 1(d), the polarization-maintaining fibers 12 include an optical fiber core portion 14, a stress applying part 16 and a cladding portion 18.